

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06412 241631Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 H-01 AID-05  
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02  
CEQ-01 /132 W

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R 241222Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1147  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJECT: INDO-US NUCLEAR RELATIONS: EDITORIAL IN THE "HINDU"

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: WE ARE TRANSMITTING HERE-  
WITH THE TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL, "THE NUCLEAR CHOICE", WHICH  
APPEARED IN THE INFLUENTIAL AND WIDELY-CIRCULATED "HINDU" OF  
MADRAS APRIL 22. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS EDITORIAL ACCURATELY  
REFLECTS A WIDELY-SHARED VIEW OF INDO-US NUCLEAR RELATIONS IN  
THE AFTERMATH OF THE NRC DECISION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. WITH THE REJECTION BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
IN WASHINGTON OF INDIA'S APPLICATION FOR ANOTHER LOT OF ENRICHED  
URANIUM, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE U.S. HAS BECOME AN UNDEPENDABLE  
SUPPLIER OF FUEL FOR THE TARAPUR POWER PLANT WHOSE OPERATION HAS  
ALREADY BEEN AFFECTED BY AMERICAN UNHELPFULNESS. THE U.S.  
PRESIDENT IS STILL EMPOWERED TO ISSUE AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR URAN-  
IUM, BUT HIS DECISION IS SUBJECT TO A VETO BY THE CONGRESS.  
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A YEAR AND HALF OR A LITTLE LESS REMAINS BEFORE THE NEW AMERICAN  
LAW COMES INTO FORCE, APPLYING MORE STRINGENT CONDITIONS THAN  
EVER BEFORE ON THE SALE OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR MATERIALS. WASHIN-  
GTON HAS GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY TO ITS INSISTENCE THAT WITHIN THIS  
PERIOD, COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA SHOULD AGREE TO ABIDE BY TREATY-  
LIKE CONDITIONS OF "FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS" IF THEY ARE TO CONTINUE  
TO RECEIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CRITICAL MATERIALS THAT THE

U.S. MAY BE WILLING TO EXPORT. THE DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF AMERICAN DECISIONS SO FAR IS OBVIOUS IN THE HASTE WITH WHICH CERTAIN MATERIALS WERE CLEARED FOR DISPATCH TO FRIENDLY DEVELOPED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EVEN AS THE CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO INDIA WERE DELAYED BY PROCEDURAL ROAD-BLOCKS. THE "LONDON CLUB". OF DEVELOPED NUCLEAR POWERS (INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION) HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR JOINT, RIGID STANCE TO DENY THE FRUITS OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE HAVE-NOTS EVEN AS THEY GO ON PROLIFERATING IN THE WEAPONS FIELD.

3. IN THE LIGHT OF CONFUSION CAUSED BY SOME EARLIER STATEMENTS BY MR. MORARJI DESAI - SPARKING FEARS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ON THE POINT OF RELENTING ON ITS LONG-ESTABLISHED POLICY OF ASSERTING ITS SOVEREIGNTY ON NUCLEAR MATTERS- A BRIGHT NOTE IS STRUCK IN A CRYPTIC SENTENCE IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR 1977-78 PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT. IT HAS RECORDED THAT THE NEW POWER REACTOR FUEL RE-PROCESSING PLANT AT TARAPUR IS RECOVERING PRECIOUS PLUTONIUM. ANOTHER REPROCESSING PLANT WILL BE ERECTED AT KALPAKKAM, NEAR MADRAS. THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT ON TARAPUR GIVES THE U.S. A VETO ON THE RECYCLING OF THE SPENT FUEL. IF THE U.S. FORMALLY RENEGES ON THE TARAPUR CONTRACT, OR IF THE DELAYS IN SUPPLIES AND OTHER FACTORS LEAD TO A STALEMATE IN WHICH CASE THE CONTRACT BECOMES INVALID DE FACTO, INDIA SHOULD HAVE NO RESERVATION OVER MOVING AHEAD QUICKLY WITH REPROCESSING THE SPENT FUEL FROM TARAPUR ITSELF. THE FINE PRINT IN THE CONTRACT SHOULD BE OVERLOOKED IF THE U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOES BACK ON THE ESSENCE OF THE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT AS IT NOW NEARLY HAS. IN SUCH A COURSE, INDIA MAY ALSO HAVE TO FACE UP TO NEW PRESSURES FROM THE SOVIET UNION WHICH IS AN ACTIVE PARTY IN TRYING TO PUSH DOWN THE THROAT OF INDIA AND OTHERS THE UNEQUAL AND DISCRIMINATORY NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS STATED THAT IT WILL TAKE TWO YEARS TO ACQUIRE SELF-RELIANCE FOR THE HEAVY WATER NEEDS OF THE EXISTING NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS. BOTH THE BARODA AND TALCHER HEAVY WATER PLANTS HAVE BEEN DELAYED AS A RESULT OF MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENTS. MEANWHILE, THE SOVIET UNION HAS IMPOSED INTERNATIONAL - NOT BILATERAL- INSPECTION CONDITIONS FOR HEAVY WATER SUPPLIES. IT WILL NOT BE PRUDENT TO RELY FAR TOO MUCH ON THIS SOURCE EITHER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE ACCORD BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-POWERS TO PUT THE SQUEEZE ON COUNTRIES REFUSING TO SIGN THE NPT. OF COURSE, INDIA SHOULD PURSUE EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE STANCE OF THE SUPER-POWERS; THAT WILL BE A HARD GRIND. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PREDICT A DEFINITE TIME SCHEDULE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE FUEL FOR THE TARAPUR PLANT. THERE ARE TWO TECHNICAL POSSIBILITIES ON THE HORIZON. FIRST, THE USE OF URANIUM ENRICHED TO A LOWER LEVEL THAN NOW. SECONDLY, THE USE OF MIXED PLUTONIUM-URANIUM FUEL RODS. IF THE SECOND CHOICE IS MADE, THE NEW RE-

PROCESSING FACILITY WILL HAVE TO PLAY A BIG PART. IT IS NECESSARY  
TO AVOID EXAGGERATING THE GRAVITY OF A POWER SUPPLY CRISIS  
IF, AS A RESULT OF AMERICAN DECISIONS ON SUPPLIES, THE TARAPUR  
STATION HAS TO BE SHUT DOWN FOR A WHILE. IT HAS BEEN PROVIDING  
LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE POWER NEEDS OF MAHARASHTRA. THE  
GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACTIVATE THE SCIENTIFIC TALENT ON TAP IN THE  
COUNTRY TO GO AHEAD WITH TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS ON THE PREMISE THAT,  
AS THINGS STAND, WE HAVE TO GO IT ALONE - A LESSON CHINA LEARNT  
SOME TWO DECADES AGO.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 24 apr 1978  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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